

King County Mobility Coalition

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave NE, Room 1E-108

In attendance

Members/Alternates: Gaby Bell, Dorene Cornwell, Stacey Devenney, Bill Eby, Jackie Engler-Morris, Sylvia Fuerstenberg, Natasha Hundley, Ref Lindmark (co-chair), Jacque Mann, Scott Ninneman, Alex O'Reilly (co-chair), Ruben Rivera-Jackman, Edith Savadove, Allison Scott, George Smith, Cindy Zwart.

Collaborators: Evita Almassi, Ankita Gupta, Mike Jung, Danette Klemens, DeAnna Martin, Julie Povick, Sandy Schurman, Jack Whisner.

Staff: Michelle Zeidman.

Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

Alex O'Reilly welcomed everyone and recognized Ref Lindmark as the new co-chair for the Coalition. (Alex and Ref will serve as co-chairs for 2012.) Alex acknowledged Bob Sahm for his years of service as co-chair of the Coalition and note that he will continue to serve on the coalition, although he was not able to attend this meeting. Everyone introduced themselves, including the following new collaborators:

New Introductions:

- Natasha Hundley is a resident services coordinator at King County Housing Authority.
- Danette Klemens is the Mobility Manager for Snohomish County and staffs the Snohomish County Transportation Coalition (SNOTRAC). She is also the chair of the regional Special Needs Transportation Committee (SNTC) at the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC).
- Sandy Schurman is program staff for SNOTRAC and manages their Ride Around the Sound, Pay Your Pal and Travel Ambassador programs.
- Ankita Gupta represents the India Association of Western Washington (IAWW) and works for Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS).

Announcements:

- Cindy Zwart announced that Senior Services is focused on legislative advocacy regarding the Senior Citizens Services Act. Cuts to this Act impact transportation and information and referral programs at Senior Services, and other programs around the state.
- Gaby Bell shared that the pedestrian safety project is underway through a partnership between Harborview, Hopelink, King County Housing Authority (KCHA) and King County Metro. In February, Harborview staff made three presentations in Shoreline for KCHA residents. At these presentations, Harborview staff encouraged attendees to take control of their safety as pedestrians and they distributed high visibility safety items. Harborview has 12 more presentations scheduled in the next six months.

Consent Calendar

New Members and Alternates: the Coalition appointed the following members:

- BJ Libby (Mt. Si Senior Center) to the rural member seat previously held by Ruth Tolmasoff, who retired in August 2012.

October 18, 2011 Meeting Minutes: the Coalition approved the meeting minutes as written.

PSRC Program Management Plan Updates

Danette Klemens briefed the Coalition on the Special Needs Transportation Committee's work to make minor changes to the regional Program Management Plans (PMPs) in preparation for the Consolidated Grants Program this fall. To help with this update, a regional subcommittee was formed and has since divided into two work groups: (1) one recommending edits to the funding criteria for New Freedom and Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC), and (2) developing a possible secondary project screen for geographic equity. Gil Cerise (staff to the Special Needs Transportation Committee) is also looking at administrative updates to the PMPs. Jacque Mann noted that the State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is also participating in this subcommittee to ensure that regional criteria are in alignment with the state process.

All revisions to the PMPs must be resolved by mid-March so the Special Need Transportation Committee can present its recommendations to the Transportation Operators Committee, who will make a recommendation to the Transportation Policy Board, who will make a recommendation to the Executive Board, who has the authority to update the PMPs, in accordance with the Puget Sound Regional Council's process.

2012 Special Needs Transportation Funding

Alex O'Reilly noted that at our May and August KCMC meetings, we will discuss possible partnerships for grant applications. Michelle Zeidman also noted that this cycle she will be putting together a local grant review committee of non-transportation people to review coalition members' grants and provide feedback prior to submission, for those interested.

Coalition members also suggested developing a contact list of who to talk with regarding certain types of projects or project components.

- ❑ ACTION ITEM: Michelle will work with members to develop this contact list.

Livable Communities Committee Update

Gaby Bell briefed the Coalition on the Committee's current activities. The Committee has two new work groups, as follows:

- (1) Filling the Gap in Patient Transportation - this group is developing a service that will fill the transportation gap for patients waiting to get enrolled in other transportation services (such as Medicaid or Access). Next step is to track appointment cancellation data for 3-6 months to confirm that transportation is a barrier to patient access to health care.
- (2) Rough Ground - this group is focused on terrain issues, particularly for pedestrians with disabilities. They are developing a toolkit to help pedestrians advocate for infrastructure improvements that will make it easier for them to get around.

Gaby also noted that the Livable Communities Committee is looking for new members. If you are interested, please contact Gaby Bell at gabyb@u.washington.edu or Michelle Zeidman at mzeidman@hope-link.org.

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (EERC) Update

Alex O'Reilly shared that EERC developed its 2012 work plan based on the priorities identified during its August action planning workshop. Upcoming projects include:

- (1) Intracity Transit Options - these circulator or van services are intended to encourage mobility within a city and could provide feeder-to-fixed route service.
- (2) Free Transit Tickets - as part of the Congestion Reduction Charge passed by County Council last summer, when individuals register their vehicles they will have the option of donating their complimentary Metro Transit passes to human service agencies to redistribute to low-income individuals. EERC plans to launch a campaign to encourage people to donate their tickets.
- (3) As part of an equity grant to conduct outreach to low-income individuals and people of color along the East Link light rail line, EERC is hosting a Transit Communities Exchange Forum on February 29 in Bellevue. All are welcome to attend.

North King County Mobility Coalition (NKCMC) Update

George Smith provided a brief update on the work of NKCMC, which covers five cities from Shoreline to Woodinville. NKCMC is working on projects to implement the results of a needs assessment they conducted last spring.

Legislative Update

Ref Lindmark provided an overview of the funding situation at the state and federal levels. He noted that the State budget has two components of interest to us: (1) general fund and (2) transportation fund.

- (1) The General Fund pays for social services and other programs, which are critical to the success of transportation programs that transport people to those services. Also, some transportation services are partially funded by general fund dollars, including Senior Services' Hyde Shuttles and volunteer transportation programs. Another example is Medicaid transport. The budget forecast was better than expected, so hopefully fewer things will be cut now and in the future. Currently there are conversations underway regarding how to prioritize programs.
- (2) The Transportation Fund supports transit agency budgets and special needs transportation services. The first version of this budget was worrisome; it is looking better now. Transits realize they can't look to the state for statewide funding for transit. Instead their first priority is that the state provide local funding authority so transits can raise revenue locally.

At the federal level, Congress is working on a reauthorization of transportation funding package. The House version cuts funding for bike, pedestrian and multimodal projects, and instead moves these funds to roads and highways. The Senate version fixes those problems and funds bikes, complete streets, Safe Routes to School, etc.

Metro's 2012 Service Change Proposal

Ref Lindmark introduced the topic, noting that there will be significant changes to Metro service in the future.

DeAnna Martin, Community Relations Planner at KC Metro, described the 2012 Service Change Proposal, which looks at potential changes to 60 transit routes. These proposed changes are triggered by the upcoming implementation of RapidRide C and D lines, which will serve West Seattle and Ballard corridors (respectively). After public feedback in November, the proposal was amended. DeAnna asked KCMC members and collaborators to encourage their clients to give input on the proposal via an online survey, a paper survey or at public hearings. More information and resources for providing input are available at: <http://metro.kingcounty.gov/have-a-say/>

Jack Whisner, Transportation Service Planner at KC Metro, discussed some of the details of the Service Change Proposal. He noted that there were two stages of outreach via the Executive's Office and one via the County Council. Unlike other service change proposals, there was not a formal citizen's sounding board formed, due to lack of funding.

Ref Lindmark also noted that this fall, Metro will be changing to a "pay on entry" system as part of the elimination of the Ride Free Zone in downtown Seattle. This new payment protocol will be implemented countywide. Riders will be instructed to board at the front of the bus (and pay on entry) and exit at the back of the bus. Jack explained that Metro is changing the design of some routes in downtown Seattle to accommodate the pay on entry system; specifically Metro is working to reduce turns on or off of Third Avenue in downtown, which slow down the system.

Immigrant & Refugee Elders Transportation Project

Cindy Zwart provided an update to the Coalition on this project, which was funded by a \$20,000 grant from the National Center for Senior Transportation. The goal of the project is to increase access to information about existing transportation services for immigrant and refugee elders in King County. The project included community meetings, a transportation summit, and development of an action plan. The action plan is currently being implemented.

One outcome of the project is the creation of a multilingual video series on (1) riding the bus, (2) paying for the bus and light rail, and (3) other ways to travel. The videos are narrated by leaders from 7 refugee and immigrant communities, plus an English version narrated by Dinah Wilson of the City of Kent. Hard copy guides were also created in each of the 8 languages. The videos were screened during the meeting. They can be viewed online at: www.youtube.com/user/kcmobilitycoalition. The PDF guides can be downloaded at: www.kingcounty.gov/mobilitycoalition.

Ref Lindmark shared that through the community conversations we learned that many immigrants and refugees don't look to KC Metro or the government for help, but rather look to their community leaders. That is why community leaders were chosen to narrate the videos, and we have received positive feedback on that decision.

Ref also noted the KC Metro is looking to create the videos in other languages. Sound Transit is considering creating a multi-lingual video series on how to use their ticket vending machines.

Michelle Zeidman shared that Hopelink's Travel Training programs are using these videos, both in English and other languages.

Alex O'Reilly suggested that we track feedback from people who view the videos, and that we ask the community organizations to report how many people they have showed the videos to. Alex also noted that we should work with public TV stations to show the videos, such as Bellevue TV which could screen the English, Spanish and Russian languages.

Dorene Cornwell noted that many seniors would benefit from these videos.

Ankita Gupta suggested that an additional video be created with tips about what not to do – for example, not to stand close to the bus when the lift or ramp is being deployed.

Stacey Devenney asked about the project cost and noted that this was a good value.

Gaby Bell shared that another outcome of this project is the development of a Language Assistance Card for people with limited English proficiency to use when riding the bus. This card is being tested via a small pilot program.

Next Steps

- The May meeting will include a legislative wrap-up and a conversation about grant partnerships in preparation for the fall grant cycle.

Agendas, minutes and handouts from past Coalition meeting are available online at:
<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/kccsnt/agendas-minutes.html>